



Greater Norview Task Force Meeting MINUTES Wednesday, September 11, 2013 6:00 p.m. Norview Community Center

The following people were present:

Councilwoman Williams	Stanley Stein	Larry Hoots
Margaret Hoots	Bev Sell	Pamela Marino
Christine Morris	Victoria Jessie	Maravia Reid
Garnzie West	Lea Russell	AnnaBelle Eversole
Earl Fraley	Sgt. Bailey	Officer Mendoza
Officer Serrano	Dianna Grant	Aaron Grant
Penny Brower	Austin Loney	Josh Loney
Jerry Hollobaugh	Jeff Cooper	Judy Swystun
Jean Stover	Gloria Santiago	Chrishaun Smith
Paul Trahadas	Jackie Rochelle	Nicole Knudson
Gill Melgoza	Donna Melgoza	Billy Melgoza
Jim Herbst		

The meeting was chaired by Stanley Stein who welcomed everyone.

1. Police Engagement Report

Maravia Reid, Community Outreach Coordinator for the Norfolk Police Department (NPD), made citizens aware that the Crime Prevention Section of the NPD is soliciting nominations for the annual Crime Prevention Awards at the annual Crime Prevention Awards Ceremony. Ms. Reid can be contacted at 664-6937 or maravia.reid@norfolk.gov for nomination forms. The deadline has been extended to September 18. The annual ceremony is Monday, October 28, 2013, 6:30 p.m. at The Murray Center, 455 E. Brambleton Avenue. For dinner tickets (\$30 each), contact Jamie Edmonds at 535-7828, or any Selection Committee member.

2. Five Points Pedestrian Commercial Overlay (PCO) Discussion

The Planning Department is reviewing ways to make city processes more user friendly and efficient. This includes working with communities to evaluate Pedestrian Commercial Overlays (PCOs). PCOs are districts where communities have overlaid standard zoning with additional requirements to encourage pedestrian friendly development. At the same time as this process is being undertaken, the owners of Norfolk Pawn (6177 Sewells Point Road) have requested permission from the community and the City to relocate their pawn shop to the former BB&T building (6145 Sewells Point Road) if they purchased it. Moving the pawn shop would only be

permissible if a text amendment were made to the Five Points PCO adding “Pawnshop” as a permitted use. Chrishaun Smith, City Planner, presented information on the PCO review process and provided information on the pawn shop request—while keeping the two issues separate.

A. The PCO Update

Mr. Smith gave a presentation about PCO’s citywide, their purpose, examples, and specifics about the Five Points PCO. Potential proposed changes identified are:

- Modify development standards waivers
- Modify PCO Development Certificate requirement
- Discussion of Land Uses within the PCO

PCOs are unique to each community where they are used. City Council gives strong consideration to community input in deliberating any proposed changes. Councilwoman Williams emphasized that Council is interested in hearing what the community wants to see in the corridor. The Planning Department is also considering changes to parking requirements citywide in a separate process.

B. Norfolk Pawn Shop Questions

Members of the Five Points Partnership reported concerns about the proposed text amendment that would allow the pawn shop to move. Because of the building’s architectural importance, it would help them to see a rendering of what it would look like after the move. They are also concerned with the language that would be used if a special exception were created and the long term implications of the change beyond the current owners of the pawn shop. Furthermore, questions were raised why only one civic league was initially consulted.

Mr. Smith and Councilwoman Williams indicated that the current proposed change would require two separate Council votes: 1) one to change the ordinance, 2) followed by a second vote to process the actual pawn shop request. Civic leagues who have a position on the subject should make their recommendations to the Director of Planning via a letter or email so that it becomes a matter of record that goes to Council.

C. Action items – special Norview Task Force meeting

City staff will coordinate an additional meeting to review the PCO and answer questions. Councilwoman Williams recommended that the Development Department be involved in addition to the Planning Department. City staff will provide examples of what other PCOs in the city are doing. City staff will also look at any options for allowing the pawn shop to move without making a permanent change.

3. Five Points Business Conversation

Businesses, community members and property owners held a meeting the previous Wednesday. It was held to communicate resources that are available and to begin to discuss PCO updates.

4. New Business

A. Additional Considerations for the Business Corridor

Members of the task force meeting requested that the City consider other improvements for the future: better sidewalks along Sewells Point Road, better parking in the business corridor, demolition of obsolete structures, addition of a pool to the community center, and replacement of the elementary school in long term plans.

B. Better Block

A question was raised about Better Block. Mr. Smith is now the point person for Better Block. The next Better Block was initiated by the Park Place Business Association for 35th Street for November 8 and 9. Mr. Smith said the City can assist the Five Points area with its own project, but emphasized that it is a community driven project that requires dozens of volunteers and the cooperation of businesses and property owners. The actual block is at the community's discretion. Better Block is a rapid implementation planning tool used to temporarily test proposed changes and bring attention to redevelopment possibilities to an area.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, September 25, 2013, 6:00 p.m. - Norview Community Center